

ORDER OF WORSHIP SERVICE

PROVIDENCE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bible House, Level 4, Seminar Room 1

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*A household for our triune God,
where each member shines forth His holy, life-giving presence.*

**THE LORD'S DAY OF DECEMBER 17,
THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2017
9.15 AM**

“But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.”
(Habakkuk 2:20)

WE PREPARE TO MEET WITH GOD

Welcome

Preparatory Devotional & Prayer

Asterisks (*) denote portions for congregation to stand.
Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version (ESV).
Congregational readings are in **bold**.

GOD SUMMONS US INTO HIS PRESENCE

The Greeting of God

The Call to Worship: *Psalm 107:1*

¹ Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S SUMMONS

*Hymn of Praise: *Trinity Hymnal 731, "Doxology"*

*Opening Prayer

*Hymn of Praise: *Trinity Hymnal 76, "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"*

GOD DECLARES HIS LAW

Reading of the Law: *Exodus 20:4-6*

⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LAW

Silent Prayer of Confession

Confession of Sin (Unison):

**Our Father in heaven,
you alone are the Lord,
the Creator of all things,
the true King of all creation.**

**We have offended you by bowing down to false gods,
by exalting our desires above your will,
and by giving our hearts to idols.**

Purify our hearts, Father.

Incline our minds to your will.

Take our hearts back to yourself.

**Make us to desire your glory above all.
Through Jesus our Lord,
who died for sinners (Rom 5:6)
and fulfilled all righteousness (Mt 3:15),
forgive our many sins.
Amen.**

GOD DECLARES HIS GOSPEL

Reading of the Gospel: *Romans 5:18-21*

¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Confession of the Gospel (Unison): *Adapted from Luther's Small Catechism*

I believe that Jesus Christ is truly God, born of the Father in eternity and also truly man, born of the Virgin Mary. He is my Lord! He redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, bought and won me from all sins, death and the authority of the Devil. It did not cost Him gold or silver, but His holy, precious blood, His innocent body—His death! Because of this, I am His very own, will live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him righteously, innocently and blessedly forever, just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns forever.

Assurance of Pardon: *Hebrews 5:7-9*

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL

*Hymn of Thanksgiving: *Trinity Hymnal 308, "Jesus Paid It All"*

GOD TEACHES US HIS WORD

Reading of the Word of God:

Hebrew 3 – ¹Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ²who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. ³For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses--as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) ⁵Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope. ⁷Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸do not harden your

hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,⁹ where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years.¹⁰ Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.'¹¹ As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.¹⁵ As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses?¹⁷ And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Hebrew 4 – ¹Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.² For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.³ For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest,'" although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.⁴ For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works."⁵ And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest."⁶ Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience,⁷ again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on.⁹ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Psalms 100 – ¹Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!² Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!³ Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!⁵ For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Prayer for Understanding

Preaching of the Word of God:

“Worship Matters: The Heart”—Elder Keng Ho

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of Response: *Trinity Hymnal 677: “Praise the Saviour, Ye who Know Him”*

A Prayer of Response

Thanksgiving

Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Republic of Singapore

The Holy Church of Jesus Christ

The Lord’s Prayer (Unison): *Matthew 6:9-13*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Offering

*The Confession of Faith (Unison): *The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell;

the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;

the holy catholic⁺ Church;

+ universal

the communion of saints;

the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body;

and the life everlasting.

Amen.

*Hymn of Consecration: *Trinity Hymnal 196, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

GOD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSINGS

*Benediction

BOOK REVIEW

By *Chung Jia Jun*

Call The Sabbath A Delight by Walter Chantry
Banner of Truth Trust, 1991

“In their pride, men have dismissed God’s perfect law. His Decalogue requires the habit, the steady routine practice, the discipline of a day of worship and service to God. It is such habit, routine and discipline that will give men both a knowledge of God and moral standards by which to live. It is just such a Sabbath Day that will strengthen families and social institutions. No wonder the church herself is devotionally, doctrinally and morally weak. Even Christians will not devote a day each week to their Lord.” (p. 12)

In *Call The Sabbath A Delight*, Pastor Walter Chantry spends slightly more than 100 pages dealing with an often disregarded commandment among Christian circles: keeping the Sabbath holy. He urges Christians to spend their Sundays in total devotion to God, because the commandment is holy, spiritual and good for us.

Personally, I appreciate the fact Chantry does not simply force a rigid, legalistic or Pharisaic view, but gives great consideration to the matters of the heart, which he believes to be the most important factor of all. His view can be thus summed up, “More rests upon motive and intent than upon the outward acts we do on the Sabbath.” (p. 106) At the same time, he labours, exhorts and persuades his readers to keep the Sabbath holy while resisting excuses or objections to it—both personal and theological.

For a small book, I think Chantry has dealt with this subject adequately and carefully, not to allow the legalist to legislate do’s and don’ts nor antinomians to throw the law overboard, but to reveal to the reader the blessedness and delight that can be found in dedicating one day of seven back to the One who gave us all seven days to begin with. As a first-time reader of a book dealing specifically with this subject, I have been greatly edified and motivated to keep the Sabbath—and it is my hope that the reader will be convinced of it too. I heartily recommend it. ❖

